

In the Claims:

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (twice amended) A method for antigen independent activation of T cells, *in vivo*, comprising contacting T cells independent of antigen with a combination of at least two cytokines selected from the group consisting of interleukin-2, interleukin-6, and tumor necrosis factor alpha, or functionally equivalent fragments thereof.

Please amend claim 10 as follows:

10. (amended) The method of any of the preceding claims, wherein the activation of the T cells *in vivo* leads to an enhanced immunological response.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-6, and 10-12 were pending in this patent application, and claims 1, 3-6, and 10-12 were rejected by the Office Action dated April 24, 2001. Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of the claims be withdrawn upon reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and arguments that follow.

The period to respond is extended by petition, and payment of the appropriate fee provided herewith.

An IDS was submitted on September 21, 2000. Applicants have not received initialed copies of the PTO 1449 forms submitted with the IDS. Accordingly, applicants request that the Examiner provide these copies in the next action.